

Board, founding of the Pomfret Gardeners, membership on the Community Regional YMCA Board, and serving as Director of the Performing Arts of Northeastern Connecticut.

I ask my colleagues to please rise to thank Maureen for her years of steadfast dedication. Although her leadership as First Selectman will surely be missed, I am confident that her commitment to Pomfret will continue in the years to come.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE BANKRUPTCY JUDGESHIP ACT OF 2015

### HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 10, 2015*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, the "Bankruptcy Judgeship Act of 2015," authorizes 6 additional permanent bankruptcy judgeships and converts 16 temporary bankruptcy judgeships to permanent status, based on recommendation of the Judicial Conference of the United States. With respect to the 6 additional permanent bankruptcy judgeships, they are authorized pursuant to section 3 of the bill as follows: 2 for the District of Delaware; 2 for the Eastern District of Michigan; and 2 for the Middle District of Florida. With respect to the 16 conversions, they are authorized pursuant to section 2 of the bill for the following districts:

- 5 for the District of Delaware;
- 2 for the Southern District of Florida;
- 3 for the District of Maryland;
- 1 for the Eastern District of Michigan;
- 1 for the District of Nevada;
- 1 for the Eastern District of North Carolina;
- 2 for the District of Puerto Rico;
- 1 for the Western District of Tennessee; and
- 1 for the Eastern District of Virginia.

This legislation responds to a serious need. Since the last time additional bankruptcy judgeships were authorized, which was 10 years ago, the 6 districts that would be authorized additional judicial resources by this bill have experienced a 55 percent increase in weighted filings, according to the Judicial Conference.

All 16 of the temporary bankruptcy judgeships that the bill converts to permanent status are set to lapse as of May 25, 2017. As the Conference observes, "These bankruptcy courts would face a serious and, in many cases, debilitating workload crisis if their temporary judgeships were to expire."

The need for these additional judicial resources is based on a comprehensive analysis performed by the Judicial Conference based on a formal survey of all judicial circuits conducted pursuant to section 152(b)(2) of title 28 of the United States Code. Criteria considered include the workload of each court, case filing statistics, and geographic factors, among other matters.

#### CONGRATULATING THE HERCULANEUM HIGH SCHOOL BLACK CATS FOR THEIR SECOND PLACE FINISH IN THE 2015 MISSOURI CLASS 2 BOYS CROSS COUNTRY STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

### HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 10, 2015*

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Herculanum Black Cats for their second place finish in the 2015 Class 2 State Boys Cross Country Championship.

This team and their coach should be commended for all of their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home 2nd place to their school and community.

I ask you to join me in recognizing the Herculanum Black Cats for a job well done.

#### TRIBUTE TO MARGARET FLETCHALL

### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 10, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Margaret Fletchall on the celebration of her 102nd birthday. Margaret celebrated her 102nd birthday on October 31, 2015 in Mount Ayr, Iowa.

Our world has changed a great deal during the course of Margaret's life. Since her birth, we have revolutionized air travel and walked on the moon. We have invented the television, cellular phones, and the internet. We have fought in wars overseas, seen the rise and fall of Soviet communism, and witnessed the birth of new democracies. Margaret has lived through seventeen United States Presidents and twenty-four Governors of Iowa. In her lifetime, the population of the United States has more than tripled.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent Margaret in the United States Congress and it is my pleasure to wish her a very happy 102nd birthday. I invite my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Margaret for reaching this incredible milestone, and wishing her even more health and happiness in the years to come.

#### CONGRATULATING THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS SERVICES ON THE OPENING OF THE FAIRFAX VETERANS BENEFITS OFFICE

### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 10, 2015*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Virginia Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs John C. Harvey, Jr. and Department of Veterans Services Benefits Director Tom Herthel on the opening of the new Veterans Benefits office in Fairfax City.

The 11th District of Virginia is home to almost 54,000 veterans. More than 70% are veterans of the wars in the Persian Gulf. The opening of this new center will ensure that they receive timely access to the benefits they have earned.

The opening of this office is yet another step in addressing the needs of our veterans. While the statistics indicate that overall, veterans in the 11th District may be more economically or professionally secure, the dedicated men and women who have served our country in uniform are still plagued by the same issues that veterans around the country face including prolonged disability or appeal processing times, difficulty scheduling appointments with the VA medical centers, and delays in receiving Post 9-11 GI Bill educational benefits. We must do more to ensure that these issues and others are addressed and resolved. For our community, the statistics are encouraging. The percentage of unemployed veterans is 3.3%, two percentage points better than the national average. The percentage of veterans living below the poverty line is 2.2%, well below the national average of 12.5%. More than 60% of veterans in this district have a bachelor's degree or higher, almost twice the national average.

These numbers speak to the character of these individuals and also to the network of support services that have emerged in the 11th District. We, as a community, are united in our efforts to provide any and all assistance and guidance needed.

Mr. Speaker, providing care for our men and women in uniform after they return home from the battlefield is a sacred obligation. I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the Virginia Department of Veterans Services and its dedicated staff on the opening of this new Veterans Benefits Office, and I offer my continued support and assistance to these ongoing efforts.

#### OYSTER CREEK'S STAR TEACHER

### HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 10, 2015*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Brittany Mayland for being named a Star in the Classroom by the Houston Texans.

Ms. Mayland is a kindergarten teacher at Oyster Creek Elementary School in my hometown of Sugar Land, Texas. Her positive impact and commitment to her students led one of her students, Izabelle Paul, to nominate her for this award presented by the Houston Texans and First Community Credit Union. Her dedication to creating a fun and engaging learning environment shows her star quality in the classroom. The students at Oyster Creek are lucky to have her.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Ms. Mayland for being named a Star in the Classroom.